

Throughout his life and during his service as a member of this House, Congressman Thomas Downing was a true public servant and a great Virginian. Our nation, the Commonwealth, and Hampton Roads will all miss him.

THE PASSING OF FORMER VIRGINIA CONGRESSMAN TOM DOWNING

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a gracious friend and champion of the citizens of the Virginia Peninsula, former Congressman of Virginia's First Congressional District, Tom Downing.

Tom was a true gentleman and a great patriot. Representing the Peninsula in Congress from 1959 to 1977, he helped Newport News Shipbuilding gain approval for expansion, which made it easier and more cost effective for the shipyard to construct some of the largest ships in the world.

Tom was also well known for his firm belief that Lee Harvey Oswald did not act alone in assassinating President John Kennedy. He convinced Congress to open a second investigation into the death of the President. While he retired before the panel began its work, Tom remained convinced until his recent death that the footage on the Zapruder film held the answers.

Born in Newport News, Virginia on February 1, 1919, Tom was a graduate of Newport News High School, received a B.S. degree from Virginia Military Institute and a law degree from the University of Virginia. He served in World War II as a combat troop commander of Mechanized Cavalry with Gen. George Patton's Third U.S. Army and commanded the first troops in the Third Army to invade Germany. He received a Silver Star for gallantry in action in France when his unit was ambushed by a German patrol. He rescued two of his men who were wounded during the initial exchange of gunfire.

Tom Downing was re-elected to Congress eight times, with little trouble and often unopposed. During his tenure in Congress, Tom recognized more than anyone the great economic impact the Newport News shipyard had on his district. He twice considered running for higher office—U.S. Senate in 1966 and governor a few years later—but decided against both. This body benefited greatly from those decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I mourn the recent loss of our friend and former colleague. Tom lived his life with exuberance and passion for serving his beloved Virginia. He was a true leader on behalf of all Virginians and Americans.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD S. GRYCZYNSKI

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional leader and American Patriot, LTC Edward S. Gryczynski, U.S. Army, Retired, in recognition of an outstanding career in service to his country.

LTC Gryczynski has a truly distinguished record, including over 22 years of commissioned service in the U.S. Army uniform, which certainly merits special recognition on the occasion of his retirement from his position as Director of Personal Affairs for The Retired Officers Association.

He entered the Army in June 1961 through LaSalle College's ROTC Program and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Defense Artillery. In 1965, he transferred to the Adjutant General Corps and was integrated in the regular Army in 1966.

Colonel Gryczynski served in a variety of positions in the administrative and personnel management fields, including assignments as instructor and course director at the Army's Adjutant General School at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. His staff assignments included tours as administrative officer in the Defense Intelligence Agency, Chief of Military Personnel at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland and Chief of Administrative Services and Executive Officer at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), in Belgium. He served two tours in Vietnam, first as Chief of Administrative Services at Cam Ranh Bay and later as a personnel staff officer at Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam.

In 1975, the Army selected him for full-time graduate study at Ball State University, where he earned a masters degree in journalism and public relations. He next served as editor of the Defense Management Journal, an official publication of the Department of Defense. He is also a graduate of the Adjutant General Officer Advanced Course, the Army Personnel Management Staff Officer Course, and the National Security Management Course of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Commendation Medal.

At the time of his military retirement in February 1985, LTC Gryczynski was Chief of Retired and Veterans Activities Division in the office of the Adjutant General, Department of the Army. In this position he was responsible for policy development and execution of the Army's Retirement Services Program.

Since becoming the Director of Personal Affairs for The Retired Officers Association, LTC Gryczynski has worked tirelessly and traveled hundreds of thousands of miles to counsel tens of thousands of military retirees, veterans, family members and survivors of those in the armed forces. His professional counseling concerning their entitlements and benefits of military service has assisted those groups tremendously.

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Mr. Speaker, Ed Gryczynski's long and distinguished career in service to his country and to the men and women of America's Uniformed Services and their family members is admirable and is to be highly commended. Our best wishes go with him for a long and fruitful second retirement. He has earned our heartfelt gratitude, and our salutes.

FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT NORMANDY MEDAL OF THE JUBILEE OF LIBERTY PROGRAM

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, last weekend I had the honor of recognizing Normandy veterans, who reside in Florida's Fourth Congressional District, with the special Jubilee of Liberty medal during a ceremony at Naval Station Mayport.

The Saturday, November 10, 2001 ceremony I hosted carried special significance since it was Veterans Day weekend and also in light of the fact that we have another set of brave American service members fighting the war on terrorism across the globe.

Mankind has waged many types of war—wars fought for land, wars fought for superiority, wars fought for riches, wars fought for independence. Most wars only impact the opposing forces and are often not remembered long in history. Some wars, however, are of such magnitude that they change the course of history. These wars are usually fought between good and evil. The heroes, who fought World War II, fought such a war. Without victory for the Allies, the world, as we know it, would be a much different place.

There is no doubt that the Normandy Invasion was a turning point in World War II. The Normandy veterans from the Fourth Congressional District were there, but, perhaps, at the time they did not know they were changing the course of history. These heroes were busy fighting, watching their brothers perish and surviving to fight another day. And like the title of the Stephen Ambrose book, they were "Citizen Soldiers". Professional soldiers designed the battle plan but it was implemented by thousands of citizen soldiers. The Battle of Normandy was the ultimate in on-the-job training. It was a simple plan: attack and push the Germans back. The how was left up to those soldiers in battle. I am sure that each Normandy veteran has a story that speaks volumes about bravery, ingenuity and drama.

It was in honor of these veterans that I was pleased to launch the Jubilee of Liberty Program this past summer. Since that time, approximately ninety veterans of the 1944 Normandy Invasion have been identified to receive this medal and we had the privilege of having seventy—nine of these brave men with us for our ceremony.

The medal we presented honors that courageous effort. The Normandy medal was originally minted at the direction of the Regional Council of Normandy and the Governor of Normandy, was first presented to D-Day veterans who returned to France for the 50th anniversary of the Normandy Invasion.